

# SAVE OUR HOMES RALLY

Saturday, November 16, 2002

## Commentary – Ann Scott Secretary of the National Alliance of HUD Tenant Board of Directors

Without a home, there is no family life. Without a family or home, hope is bleak. Communication starts at home. The basics of life learning begins at home....loyalty, love, respect, working together, living together, sharing, and caring...Without a home to settle in, these basics are foreign and without purpose. HOME, HOME!!! Just the sound of the word makes one feel all warm inside.

Basically we're taught that we must take care of home first, then all else comes next. One of the reasons we're rallying here today is because we need to remind our United States Chief Executive, President Bush and our other government officials that the needs of U.S. citizens and their families needs must come first, then branch out with concerns of other nations.

There is no excuse, a country with the financial and political magnitude as these United States of America, to allow the affordable housing situation to languish and deteriorate at the rate it has.

A prime example of the dollar has taken a wrong turn is the plight of Atlantic City citizens. Instead of enhancing the lives and living standards of Atlantic City's people, the Rich Casinos have made the people poorer, push them out of focus, deprived them of better homes and living conditions; reneged on their promise of adequate employment with better wages.

Atlantic City is more than Casinos. It has people, families, churches, schools, streets and other things that require those services. Much of its beach space has been gobbled up by the casinos. Citizens need to have more access for entering Atlantic City beach fronts as part of the recreation they're entitled to in their home city.

People need to wake up and make demands of their National, State and local government officials. Realize how important voting is!!! Make it a priority to research the history of candidates before you vote for them. Promises are broken every day.

Be careful who you votes for in the lower ranks such as District Leaders, Freeholders, City Councilmen, County Executives, Mayors, Governors, State Senators, Assemblymen all the way to national senators and congressmen for they have the opportunity to become the President of the United States.

# THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

BY  
JOSEPH NEALE, ESQ.  
OF THE BARR, AT LINCOLN'S INN.

When a person is engaged in the study of the history of a city, he is naturally led to consider the progress of its civilisation, and the state of its government, at different periods of time. It is not, however, till we have reached the present age, that we are enabled to form a just and accurate judgment of the state of the city at the present time.

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We have to appeal to our city as well as state government officials to save our homes and to replace those units that have been and are being demolished at a much faster rate. This has become a national problem. Here in the State of New Jersey, the affordable housing shortage is appalling!

The number of working homeless families is rising at an alarming rate. It is shameful that such situations are allowed to exist in the richest democratic country in the world, especially in a nation that criticizes other nations of violating human rights.

Depriving its low income and fixed income families of the right to be able to have a comfortable and safe home is against the basic principles of human rights. The impact of inadequate homes and homelessness is devastating. Mr. President, Congressmen, Senators, Governor and Mr. Mayor along with City Councilmen, we appeal to you and demand that you look at this picture and Save Our Homes. Put yourself in place of these who are in need of Affordable Housing; Spend the nights on the street, in a dilapidated apartment, in a homes shelter with your whole family wrapped in one blanket or no blanket against the cold, live in an apartment with leaking, bad or none-functioning plumbing, loose floor – boards, fallings ceilings, broken elevators, broken stairs in stairwells and sometimes no heat in winters.

H.U.D., the Department of Housing and Urban Development was put in place to preserve and provide adequate, safe and affordable housing and development in our nation.

New Development's is taking place in some of our major cities, but at an incessantly slow rate. Structures are demolished at 3 or 4 times the rate of replacements.

Until the new structures are timely replaced with all needed replacement units, the existing strong structures need to be preserved and made livable to prevent homelessness. What are displaced families to do until these housing units are replaced? Save our homes!! Save our homes!!